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TWO MORE SENTENCED IN GREATER MINISTRIES CASE

U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore today sentenced Haywood Eudon Hall to 15 years and five months in federal prison. Hall was convicted earlier this year on two counts of conspiracy and three mail fraud counts. David Whitfield was sentenced to 19-years and seven months. Whitfield was convicted on one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud and to transport in interstate commerce money taken by fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering violations, four counts of mail fraud, five counts of money laundering and five counts of conducting unlawful money laundering transactions. The judge said he will decide on restitution within the next 90 days for all of the defendants he sentenced this week in connection with Greater Ministries International, Inc.

On August 8, 2001 Patrick Talbert was sentenced to 19- years and seven months. Talbert was found guilty by a jury back on March 12, 2001 of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud and to transport in interstate commerce money taken by fraud, five counts of money laundering and five counts of conducting unlawful money laundering transactions. The judge said he will decide on restitution within the next 90 days.

On August 6, 2001, Gerald Payne was sentenced to 27 years and his wife Betty was sentenced to 12 years and seven months. They were found guilty of the same charges

as Whitefield, Talbert and Hall. In addition Gerald Payne was also found guilty of three counts of unlawful structuring of currency transactions.

On June 6, 2001, James R. Chambers was sentenced to five years in federal prison and Andrew J. Krishak to two years and six months. The pair pled guilty in November of last year to a single charge of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud and to transport property by fraud across state lines.

Mac Cauley, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, commented on the sentencing by stating, "This group of thieves who preyed on church going people were truly wolves in sheep's clothing. They used religion to hide their evil work. Hopefully the lengthy sentences given to the leaders of Greater Ministries International will give some comfort to the thousands of victims they hurt financially."

FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 12, 2001, following a six week trial and three days of jury deliberations, five individuals affiliated with Greater Ministries International, Inc. (GMI) were convicted in Tampa, Florida, on a variety of federal charges stemming from a scheme to defraud more than 18,000 investors out of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Gerald Payne, Betty Payne, Patrick Talbert and David Whitfield were all convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud and to transport in interstate commerce money taken by fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering violations, four counts of mail fraud, five counts of money laundering and five counts of conducting unlawful money laundering transactions. Gerald Payne was also found guilty of three counts of unlawful structuring of currency transactions.

Haywood Eudon Hall was found guilty of both conspiracies and of three mail fraud counts. The jury found Hall not guilty on one mail fraud, five money laundering and five unlawful financial transaction counts.

The charges resulted from the defendants' promotion and operation of a fraudulent investment program through GMI. The indictment charged that beginning as early as March 1993 and continuing through January 1999 the defendants obtained money from victim investors by promising that twice the amount placed into the investment program would be returned to each victim investor, in incremental payments, within a 17 month period. The indictment also alleged that the defendants created the illusion that GMI was engaging in profitable investment activity by making periodic payments to victim investors which were purportedly returns on investments but were actually made with funds obtained from later investors. The defendants further made false statements concerning the assets of GMI and failed to disclose to victim investors that GMI paid a percentage of victim investor funds to GMI "elders" as commission payments.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and law enforcement agents from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Secret Service, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Florida Department of Banking and Finance's Regional Office in Tampa. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jay L. Hoffer and Robert A. Mosakowski of the Tampa Division.